

REMARKS

In connection with the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. Previously, claims 1-20 were allowed in this application. By this response, Applicant amends claim 1 and claim 11. No new matter has been added. After entry of this paper, claims 1-20 will remain pending in this application.

Japanese Office Action/References

As indicated in the Miscellaneous Communication to Applicant mailed June 26, 2007, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on May 7, 2007 has not yet been fully considered in this application. Specifically, the translated Office Action has not been initiated. Without acquiescence, in the interests of affirming allowance and avoiding unnecessary costs, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to even further clarify and/or distinguish the claims. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 11 remain in condition for allowance.

As presented, amended claim 1 of the instant application is directed towards a calculation system of fault coverage. In this regard, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a weight calculating module configured to add [] layout element information, which includes a path between the output terminal of [a] basic cell, of which the output terminal is connected, to a gate net included in the gate net data and the input terminal of [a] basic cell, of which the input terminal is connected, to the gate net, corresponding to a fault in [a] detected and undetected fault list as weight to a stuck-at fault assumed to the input terminal...." Claim 11, as amended, recites a similar limitation within the context of a computer-implemented calculation method of fault coverage.

With regard to the Japanese Office Action and underlying references, such as Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2000-276500, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a calculation system and/or method of fault coverage characterized by the above-listed recitations. Instead, the OA/cited references merely relate to an evaluation device for fault coverage having a weighted fault list generator for outputting a weighted fault list of a logic circuit, as well as a method of fault coverage, which includes the step

of outputting a weighted fault list of a logic circuit. Use of such basic weighted fault lists simply does not correspond to the sophisticated data manipulation functionality set forth in amended claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, because Reference does not disclose or suggest each and every limitations of either claim 1 or 11, as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1 and 11, as well as all the claims which depend on claims 1 and 11, i.e., claims 2-10 and 12-20, remain allowable.

Conclusory Remarks

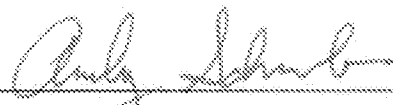
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are still in condition for formal allowance, and early and favorable affirmance of allowability is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **07-1896** referencing Attorney Docket No. **352003-991310**.

Respectfully submitted,
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